

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 20 FEB 2001

PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference 25148	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).	
International Application No. PCT/AU99/00729	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 6 September 1999	Priority Date (day/month/year) 4 September 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ G07C 1/22, A63B 69/36, 57/00		
Applicant REAL GUARDIAN PTY LTD et al		

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2001
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 3 April 2000	Date of completion of the report 4 January 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer RAJEEV DESHMUKH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2145

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages , as originally filed
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1 - 62	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1 - 62	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 62	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

US 5689431 A (RUDOW et al.) 18 November 1997 - Whole document; column 15, lines 35 - 50; figures 1, 6. RUDOW discloses a player position determining and course management system for a golf course, including a "play time" display feature that gives the course manager or administrator critical speed-of-play information for improving efficiency of course utilisation.

US 5685786 A (DUDLEY) 11 November 1997 - Whole document; column 1, line 61 - column 5, line 9; column 12, lines 26 - 49. DUDLEY discloses a passive golf information system that can be used to send speed-of-play messages.

US 5086390 A (MATTHEWS) 4 February 1992 - Whole document. MATTHEWS discloses a system for monitoring the speed of play of a golfer. When a golfer causes a slow play indication, the tracking centre is notified and the slow golfer is asked to increase the rate of play or leave the golf course.

US 4303243 A (WOLFE) 1 December 1981 - Whole document. WOLFE discloses a method of timing the play of golfers on a golf course having a plurality of holes. Each timer includes an assigned mark for each group of golfers which moves relative to a timing indicator for indicating the speed of play of each group of golfers between each timer and the preceding timer.

NOVELTY (N), INVENTIVE STEP (IS) CLAIMS 1 - 62

The claims do not appear to be novel or to involve an inventive step in light of any one of these documents each of which provides an indication of the time interval between a first group of golfers progressing about a golf course and a second group of golfers following the first group. Each document has application in golf course management to speed up slow groups of golfers. Prima facie it appears that the claimed invention differs from the citations at most in trivial details.



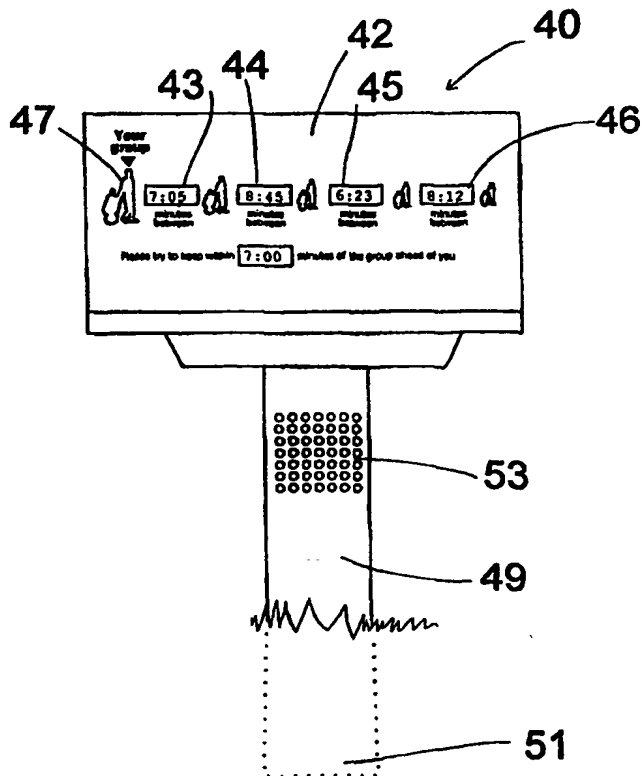
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G07C 1/22, A63B 69/36, 57/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/14688
			(43) International Publication Date: 16 March 2000 (16.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU99/00729		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, GB, US, ZA.	
(22) International Filing Date: 6 September 1999 (06.09.99)		Published With international search report.	
(30) Priority Data: PP 5659 4 September 1998 (04.09.98) AU PP 7393 30 November 1998 (30.11.98) AU PQ 2466 26 August 1999 (26.08.99) AU			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): REAL GUARDIAN PTY LTD. [AU/AU]; 65 Spencer Road, Killara, NSW 2071 (AU).			
(72) Inventor; and			
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): McCULLAGH, Patrick [AU/AU]; 65 Spencer Road, Killara, NSW 2071 (AU).			
(74) Agent: BALDWIN SHELSTON WATERS; 60 Margaret Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (AU).			

(54) Title: INDICATING THE TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN GROUPS OF GOLFERS

(57) Abstract

The time interval between (A) a first group of people (e.g. golfers) which is progressing about a (golf) course, and (B) a second group of people which is following the first group, is indicated by an apparatus (40). The apparatus (40) includes an actuation means for providing actuating signals indicative of the presence of the first and the second group, a calculation means responsive to the actuating signals to calculate the time interval between the actuating signals, and an indicator means for providing the second group with an indication of the time interval. An application of the apparatus in golf course management is to speed up slow group of golfers.



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00729

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt Cl⁶: G07C 1/22, A63B 69/36, 57/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: G07C, A63B 69/36, 57/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT, JPAT, USPM: (G07C-:/IC AND GOLF:), (A63B-069/36/IC or A63B-057/00/IC) and (TIME or TIMER or TIMING or CLOCK)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5740077 A (REEVES) 14 April 1998 Column 6, lines 1 - 23; column 4, lines 4 - 64; figure 1	
X	US 5689431 A (RUDOW et al.) 18 November 1997 Whole document; column 15, lines 35 - 50; figures 1, 6	1 - 62
X	US 5685786 A (DUDLEY) 11 November 1997 Whole document; column 1, line 61 - column 5, line 9; column 12, lines 26 - 49	1 - 62

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 September 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report.

28 SEP 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
 AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
 PO BOX 200
 WODEN ACT 2606
 AUSTRALIA
 Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer

RAJEEV DESHMUKH
 Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2145

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00729

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5524081 A (PAUL) 4 June 1996	
	Whole document; column 1, line 57 - column 5, line 11; column 7, lines 34 - 37	
A	US 5523985 A (NIXON) 4 June 1996	
	Whole document; column 1, line 14 - column 2, line 32	
A	US 5386990 A (SMITH) 7 February 1995	
	Whole document; figures 4 - 5	
A	US 5357487 A (COLEMAN, III et al.) 18 October 1994	
	Whole document; column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 59; figures 1, 3	
A	US 5335212 A (BARTOS) 2 August 1994	
	Whole document; column 1, lines 6 - 68; figures 1 - 2	
A	US 5324028 A (LUNA) 28 June 1994	
	Column 1, line 10 - column 3, line 62	
A	US 5216641 A (HOEL) 1 June 1993	
	Column 1, line 4 - column 2, line 38	
X	US 5086390 A (MATTHEWS) 4 February 1992	1 - 62
	Whole document	
X	US 4303243 A (WOLFE) 1 December 1981	1 - 62
	Whole document	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU 99/00729

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	5689431	US	5878369		
US	5685786	US	5772534	US	5326095
		JP	4250178		US 5044634
US	5324028	WO	9410581	US	5523737
END OF ANNEX					